

Message Text

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SUBJ: UGANDAN--US RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE FROM UGANDAN MISSION,
DATED JAN 23, WHICH REPRODUCES AMIN STATEMENT ON SUBJECT,
ISSUED JAN 22. RELEASE WAS FORWARDED TO US BY MAIL,
ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR SCALI FROM PERMREP KINENE.

QTE

UGANDA TO IMPROVE TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY
HIS EXCELLENCY AL-HAJJI GENERAL IDI AMIN DADA, VC. DSO. MC.,
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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON THE RELATIONS

BETWEEN UGANDA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON 22ND JANUARY, 1975.

"PRESIDENT AMIN SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE INTENDS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS IT IS A POLICY OF UGANDA GOVERNMENT TO BE FRIENDLY WITH ALL COUNTRIES. HE WAS MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF AN AMERICAN COMPANY, BELL HELICOPTER AT STATE HOUSE ENTEBBE. THEY WERE LED BY THE COMPANY MANAGER FOR AFRICA, MR. TAILLOR. AMONG THEM WAS GENERAL AMIN'S OLD FRIEND, MR. F. WILCOCKS WHO WAS HIS PILOT IN 1971. PRESIDENT AMIN SAID ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN UGANDA AND THE U.S.A., THEY SHOULD NOT BE PROLONGED. HE SAID QUARRELS AMONG PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE SAME COMMUNITY WERE UNAVOIDABLE AND ONCE THEY HAVE OCCURRED A COMPROMISE SHOULD BE REACHED TO RE-ESTABLISH GOOD AND FRIENDLY UNDERSTANDING. GENERAL AMIN SAID FOR A LONG TIME, HE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH AMERICANS, WHOM, HE SAID, HE HAD FOUND TO BE GOOD, FRANK AND COOPERATIVE PEOPLE.

HE THANKED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ASSISTANCE TO MANY COUNTRIES DESPITE THE PROBLEMS THE US. GOVERNMENT HAD INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY. HE SAID THE ASSISTANCE HAS SAVED MANY COUNTRIES FROM SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES AND MANY OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH COULD HINDER DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID UGANDA IS NON-ALIGNED. HE ALSO TOLD THE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES THAT IN UGANDA PEOPLE ARE FREE TO TRADE WITH AND BUY FROM ANY COUNTRY. BOTH GENERAL AMIN AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OBSERVED THAT UGANDA HAS THE LARGEST HELICOPTER SQUADRON IN AFRICA PURCHASED FROM AMERICA. GENERAL AMIN SAID THIS WAS A CONCRETE EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT UGANDA WAS NOT AGAINST AMERICA.

ON THE CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY TAKEOVER, HE SAID THE CELEBRATIONS ARE GOING TO BE THE BEST EVER HELD IN UGANDA. HE SAID THE ACTIVITIES WILL DEPICT UGANDA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE WHICH HAS SURVIVED OVER THE YEARS. THE PARADE WILL ALSO COMPRISE MANY PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGES. GENERAL AMIN SAID MANY DELEGATES FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM AND U.S.A. HAVE BEEN INVITED. HE SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF HIS ADVICE TO UGANDANS IN 1972 TO GROW MORE FOOD, THE COUNTRY WAS CURRENTLY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD AND HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT SUFFERED FROM FOOD SHORTAGES LIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. THE PRESIDENT SAID MANY TANZANIANS WERE CROSSING THE BORDER AT MUTUKULA AND KIKAGATI TO BUY FOOD CHEAPLY FROM UGANDA. HE SAID ALL PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT IN UGANDA WERE BEING TACKLED WITH GREAT DETERMINATION.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BELL HELICOPTER COMPANY SAID THAT IT WAS NOT ONLY UGANDA FACING INTERNAL PROBLEMS BUT ALL COUNTRIES

IN THE WORLD HAVE MANY PROBLEMS WHICH WERE PREDOMINANTLY CAUSED
BY INFLATION AND SOUR PRICES OF OIL. MR. WILCOCKS WHO LEFT UGANDA
IN 1971 BEFORE THE ECONOMIC WAR WAS DECLARED, TOLD THE PRESIDENT
THAT HE WAS HIGHLY IMPRESSED BY THE CLEANNESS OF KAMPALA. HE
ADDED THAT THE NEW TERMINAL BUILDING AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT WAS ALSO IMPRESSIVE. GENERAL AMIN SAID THAT THE CITY HAS
NOT YET ACHIEVED THE DESIRED STANDARD. MANY OLD BUILDINGS WERE
YET TO BE DEMOLISHED AND NEW ONES CONSTRUCTED AND A NEW UNIVERSITY
WAS TO BE BUILT TOO. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY THE MINISTER OF
INTERNAL AFFAIRS, MR. OBOTH-OFUMBI". UNQTE
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